

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 13 and 15 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claim 12, and add Claims 16 through 20, as follows:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A process for forming images comprising:

(i) a conducting step of conducting recording on a recording medium provided with an image-receiving layer;

(ii) a providing step of providing thermoplastic resin particles, without using a base material, onto the image-receiving layer on which recording has been conducted in step (i);  
and

(iii) a heating and pressurizing step of heating and pressurizing the thermoplastic resin particles ~~onto~~ on the image-receiving layer to form a protective layer ~~flatten the thermoplastic resin particles~~.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 12, wherein the average diameter of the thermoplastic resin particles is in the range of 0.05 to 3  $\mu\text{m}$ .

15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) A process according to claim 12, wherein either the glass transition point of the thermoplastic resin particles is lower than the glass transition point of a binder resin in the image-receiving layer, or the film-forming temperature of the thermoplastic resin particles is lower than the film-forming temperature of a binder resin in the image-receiving layer.

17. (New) A process according to claim 12, wherein the average particle diameter of the thermoplastic resin particles is smaller than the maximum unevenness of the surface of the image-receiving layer.

18. (New) A process according to claim 12, wherein the thermoplastic resin particles comprise two or more types of resin particles.

19. (New) A process according to claim 12, wherein said providing step comprises a sub-step of using an intermediate transfer body to provide the thermoplastic resin particles to the image-receiving layer.

20. (New) A process according to claim 19, wherein a charged drum is used as the intermediate transfer body.